(c) Yes, Sir. Reports have been received from all the States/UTs. except Punjab, Delhi, Goa States and UT of Lakshadweep.

(d) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep have not completed the process of making necessary preparations for implementing the TPDS.

(e) Under the scheme Panchayats and Nagarpalikas have been given the responsibility for supervising and overseeing the work of Fair Price Shops. Each Fair Price Shop will display the details of the authority to which the card holder can report grievances. States/UTs have constituted Vigilance Committees, drawn up Inspection Schedules and taken steps for greater transparency.

(f) About 586.64 lakh BPL families will be benefited under the scheme.

Threat to CBI Personnel

984. PROF. OM PAL SINGH 'NIDAR' :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the CBI investigation fodder scam have been threatened;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have taken steps to provide/ensure adequate security and safety to CBI officials dealing with sensitive scams; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Programme on Integrated Pest Management

985. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the National Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was launched;

(b) the details of achievement made and the allocation of fund provided so far;

(c) whether the Government have undertaken any survey to ascertain the benefits of the programme being provided to the farmers under the said programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Programme in the country was initiated in the year 1981. The Government of India adopted IPM as main strategy in the crop production programmes since 1985. However, the National IPM Programme was launched in the year 1994-95 in collaboration with the State Deptt. of Agriculture, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the State Agricultural Universities.

(b) Under the National IPM Programme, the main thrust has been given to pest-surveillance and monitoring, promotion of bio-control methods and Human Resource Development through field trainings and demonstrations. Since 1994-95 to 1996-97, 812 mater trainers, 21,145 Agriculture Extension Officers and 1,40,068 farmers have been trained in IPM through 4692 Farmer's Field Schools (FFSs) in rice, cotton, vegetable, oilseeds and pulse crops. During the 8th Plan period, the Government has allocated Rs. 45 crores for a Central Sector Scheme "Central IPM Centres". Besides, an allocation of Rs. 15.00 crores was made as Grants-in-aid to help the States to strengthen their Biocontrol Laboratories during the 8th Plan period. On the basis of progress made by the State Governments, an amount of Rs. 10.68 crores has been provided to the States under the Scheme.

(c) to (e) Sample studies and assessment indicate that IPM programme is very cost-effective and eco-friendly. The farmers are very receptive and responsive to its adoption.

Welfare Schemes

986. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :
SHRI SOHAN VEER SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :
DR. RAMVILAS VEDANTI :
SHRI B.L SHANKAR :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes launched by the Government for the upliftment of Weaker Sections of the country during the Eighth Plan;